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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Halle

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11/582

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 17 April 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On Red Army Day, 23 February 1951, the collective billeting area of the Luftnachrichten Schule and the Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Halle (N 52/D 92) quartered about 5,000 troops. Most of the soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank and artillery insignia. Only a few soldiers in the billeting area wore black-bordered black epaulets and black-bordered red epaulets, both without branch of service insignia.

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2. Prior to 10 March, the Flak Kaserne in Woermritz was occupied by about 3,000 troops. All soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery and tank insignia. About 400 troops were engaged in close-order drill one day. Soldiers were at gun drill with eight artillery pieces of about 80 mm caliber, some of which were mounted to trucks.

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An 80-mm mortar with a crew of six soldiers and a T-34 tank chassis mounting a rocket launching device were seen leaving the barracks installation.

3. Soviet officers of various branches of service, and their families, were billeted in a residential quarter on Reichhardtstrasse. Most of the officers, and also Soviet civilians, were seen walking to the SCC office on Thomas-Muenzer-Platz. The officers wore red-bordered black epaulets, black-bordered black epaulets, black-bordered red epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets.

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4. About 30 flatcars were being assembled at the Halle freight yard prior to 10 March.

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* [redacted] Comment. The estimated number of troops in the collective billeting area of the Luftnachrichten Schule and the Fliegerhorst Kaserne corresponds to the aggregate strength of the elements of the 21st Gds Mecz Div which are believed to be located there. Specifically, four regiment-size units and three or four battalion-size units are probably quartered in the installation, and possibly, also the division's AAA regiment. Definitely believed to be included among these units are the Hq 21st Gds Mecz Div, the 19th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt, the 136th Gds Mort Regt and the unidentified Mtrcl Bn, possibly the 114th. [redacted] 25X1

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25X1 ** [redacted] Comment. The information on the Flak Kaserne in Woermritz agrees with previous reports. [redacted] Although no rocket launcher battalion has as yet been observed with the 21st Gds Mecz Div, its existence and location in the Flak Kaserne is vaguely indicated by the rocket launcher mentioned in the present report.

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*** [redacted] Comment. The officers' billets on Reichhardtstrasse and the SCC office on Thomas-Muenzer-Platz are reported for the first time and are apparently affiliated to the Hq SCC for Land Saxony on Rathenau Platz, southeast of Thomas-Muenzer-Platz. Reichhardtstrasse is situated about 800 meters west of Thomas-Muenzer-Platz.

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